7. (Amended) A method for manufacturing a ferrule for an optical fiber connector comprising the steps of providing a capillary having opposing ends, and molding a flange onto an outer surface of the previously provided capillary intermediate the opposing ends of the capillary such that the capillary outer surface proximate each opposing end is not covered by the molded flange.

Please add the following new claims 10-19:

10. (New) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 7 wherein said capillary is provided of one material and the flange is molded of a different material.

11. (New) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 10 wherein said capillary is provided of a hard material and the flange is molded of a softer plastic material.

12. (New) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 10 wherein said capillary is provided of a material such as zirconia.

13. (New) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 10 wherein said flange is molded of a material including resins such as PBT containing glass fiber, poly-etherimide and a liquid crystal polymer containing glass fiber.

14. (New) The method for manufacturing a ferrule according to claim 13 wherein said capillary is provided of a material such as zirconia.

15. (New) The ferrule of claim 1 wherein said capillary and said flange comprise different materials.

16. (New) The ferrule of claim 15 wherein said capillary comprises a hard material and the flange comprises a softer plastic material.